

The regular meeting of the North Town Council was held on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the North Town Hall. Mayor Jeffcoat, Council members Cook, Gleaton and Lane were present. Councilman Drew was absent. Also present were Administrator Russell Ott and Clerk Cheryl Townsend. Mayor Jeffcoat declared a quorum and called the meeting to Order. He welcomed the small number of visitors present.

Council unanimously approved minutes from the last Council meeting, public hearing and called meeting.

Mr. Ott gave the Water & Sewer report. He noted that penalties and cut offs are still about the same this month. The men were busy with leaks and sewer line problems. They also cleaned up around the flowerbeds on Main Street as well as hung all the Christmas decorations. He stated that a lot of the sewer problems have been caused by grease in the lines. He asked that customers be aware of this and avoid pouring grease down their sinks. We also have a problem with people putting rags down the lines. He is looking into Council developing a policy regarding such things and making those responsible for the rags and grease pay for repairs.

No Fire Department report was offered. Mayor Jeffcoat asked that Ms. Cook speak to the Fire Chief about making reports so the Town will be aware of their activity.

Chief Fallaw gave the Police Department report. He stated that crime rate was down again this month. They issued 31 traffic citations and had 28 assist calls. Reservists worked 76 hours this month. Three arrests were made. Out of the 13 applications sent to potential officers, only 5 have been returned to us. They are mixed between certified and uncertified applicants. He has spoken with the Mayor and Administrator and will be interviewing applicants and making a decision the first of the year.

Financial statements were reviewed and accepted unanimously by Council. It was noted that both expenses and revenue were high due to payment of renovation costs to Preferred Construction and reimbursement of the 1 cent sales tax money.

Renovations to Town Hall are coming along nicely. We have had a lot of positive comments about the green metal roof. We should be back in the newly renovated building in February.

Jamie Steele, the Resident Engineer of the 321 project, came to update us on its progress. Even though they were delayed in starting work, they are close to being on schedule. Work in the business district will not begin until after the first of the year, so that shopping will be disrupted as little as possible. Completion date of the project is set for April 2006. Any complaints from citizens should be

directed to Mr. Steele. Ms. Cook asked if having a Patrol officer in the area had decreased the number of accidents. Mr. Steele said yes and that the North officers have stepped up patrol in the Town portion and that has had an effect on the way they drive through the work zone. He also said that the article that he and Chief Fallaw did for the Times and Democrat was very positive. He stressed that safety is the number one priority on this job, and that they have safety meetings each week. Mr. Ott thanked Mr. Steele for all his cooperation and expressed the Town's appreciation for his efforts during the construction project.

Aflac Insurance Company has approached the Town about offering supplemental insurance coverage for employees. This would be at no cost to the Town, but rather a payroll deduction from employees checks. Mr. Ott asked Council's approval to have them talk to employees. Mrs. Lane suggested that Mr. Ott discuss it with employees prior to having Aflac come in. No further action was taken in this matter.

The Community of Character trait for December is Kindness. We are lucky to have Mrs. Rose Stroman as one of our residents. She was nominated by her daughter to be selected as the "Character" of the month, and won for December. Mayor Jeffcoat recognized her on her selection. He stated that she is a living example of every trait that the Community of Character stands for every day. We are very proud to have such a special person as Mrs. Rose in our Town. He also recognized Eden Graves who won 2nd place in a talent show and Krishna Williams who has been awarded a scholarship to College of Charleston for her athletic ability in basketball. We are proud of them too.

Second reading of the Ordinance to approve a loan for funds to complete renovations to Town Hall was given tonight. Mr. Ott explained that everything was the same, except the amount being borrowed. According to SC Law, we can only borrow 8% of total assessed property value in Town, which is \$142,000. The loan will still be with SC Bank and Trust and will be locked at 4.73% interest with one annual payment of \$17,994.04 with the first payment due 10-1-05 for 10 years. The other money will be taken from our savings account and the Town will pay it back in the same manner as the loan. (When the loan is paid off, or earlier if possible) A motion to proceed with the loan by 2nd reading of the Ordinance was made by Mr. Gleaton, seconded by Ms. Cook, and passed unanimously by Council. All members were in agreement that we should pay savings back as stated above.

During the Mayor's report, he stated that he had heard many good things about our parade, tree lighting, and fireworks display. He also told that live Nativity scenes and choir performances would be done by the following Churches:

December 15	Mount Beulah Pentecostal
December 19	North United Methodist
December 21	North Pentecostal

They will be held from about 5:30 until 7:00 PM at the manger on the Town Square.

Public comments were made by Mr. Buckheister and Mr. Gleaton.

Mr. Ott advised Council that 4 requests for quotes had been sent out for the sale of the pine trees, and that only 2 had returned bids. The range for the amount to be made is \$8000 to \$15,000. He noted we also own trees between the ball field and cemetery and that we could sell those as well as the ones at the Sewer Plant.

Reverend Wright thanked every one for their support of the Day of Prayer. He then closed with a prayer.

There was no further business and a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lane, seconded by Ms. Cook, and passed unanimously by Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl H. Townsend
Clerk
